

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 190830Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4883

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 TAIPEI 2090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PGOV, EGEN, MPOL, JA, KS, CH, GW, SW, TW

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT YEN'S FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: IN THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 18 PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN HELD HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SOME 60 FOREIGN AND LOCAL NEWSMEN. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THIS WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE THAT HELD BY PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK ON JUNE 19, 1960. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF PRESIDENT YEN'S STATEMENTS APPEAR TO BE THAT A) THE ROC WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALREADY ESTABLISHED POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES BUT NEW APPROACHES MAY BE ADOPTED; B) THE ROC ITSELF HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS DEFENSE; C) THERE IS NOT DOUBT ABOUT THE US DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT YEN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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APRIL 18 PRESS CONFERENCE AS RECONSTRUCTED FROM NEWSPAPER AND TELEVISION COVERAGE. BECAUSE OF THE TEXTUAL DISCREPANCIES AMONG THE VARIOUS SOURCES NOW AVAILABLE, NONE OF THE EXCERPTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

AS DIRECT QUOTATIONS. IF AND WHEN A TRANSCRIPT IS AVAILABLE, WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE.

3. BASIC ROC POLICY: THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN ROC POLICIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT CHIANG. NEW APPROACHES WHICH CAN BE FOUND THAT SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST MAY BE ADOPTED, BUT THE BASIC POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES WILL NOT CHANGE.

4. THERE WAS ONE GRATIFYING ASPECT SURROUNDING PRESIDENT CHIANG'S DEATH--THE WILL AND UNITY DEMONSTRATED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY, TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO STRENGTH. SINCE WE ARE A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY THE PEOPLE ARE AN IMPORTANT BASE. SO THIS KIND OF DEMONSTRATION BY THE PEOPLE MEANS THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL CERTAINLY HAVE A GLORIOUS FUTURE....

5. AFTER PRESIDENT CHIANG DIED, HE LEFT BEHIND FOR US HIS COMMANDS AS EXPRESSED IN HIS WILL....AMONG THESE WERE TO IMPLEMENT SAN MIN CHU I, RECOVER THE MAINLAND, REVIVE THE PEOPLE'S CULTURE AND DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP. THESE ARE THE GOALS OF OUR STRUGGLE AND THE DIRECTION OF THE EFFORTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

6. RECOVER THE MAINLAND: IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD ABANDON THE "DREAM" OR "UTOPIAN THINKING" OF RECOVERING THE MAINLAND AFTER THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT CHIANG, PRESIDENT YEN SAID: I WILL CONSTANTLY REFUSE TO AGREE WITH YOU THAT THE RECOVERY OF THE MAINLAND IS A DREAM. AND I CANNOT AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS UTOPIAN THINKING. IN HIS WILL, THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG HAS CLEARLY INDICATED HIS STRONG CONVICTION OF RECOVERING THE MAINLAND; AND THIS CONVICTION IS SHARED BY THE ENTIRE PEOPLE, BOTH CIVILIANS AND THE MILITARY. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WISH.

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7. PRC AND NATIONAL DEFENSE: WE KNOW THAT IN THE PAST 26 YEARS, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE MADE VARIOUS MILITARY AND POLITICAL MOVES TO INFILTRATE AND SUBVERT TAIWAN, THE PESCADORES, KINMEN AND MATSU. BUT THEY HAVE NEVER MADE ANY HEADWAY. WE ARE QUITE SURE THAT THE ENEMY, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, WILL NOT GIVE UP TRYING. BUT WE WILL CONSTANTLY KEEP OUR VIGILANCE AND MAKE ALL PREPARATIONS TO MEET THEIR CHALLENGE. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE DREAM OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS WILL NEVER MATERIALIZE.

8. FOR THIS REASON, IN THE FUTURE, WE MUST DOUBLE OUR EFFORT IN THE DEFENSE RECONSTRUCTION BY RENEWING

EQUIPMENT, BOLSTERING THE COMBAT EFFICIENCY, DEVELOPING STRONG RESERVE FORCES, AND COMBINING OUR DEFENSE EFFORT WITH DEFENSE SCIENCES.

9. KMT "WAR CRIMINALS": IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE "WAR CRIMINALS" RELEASE BY THE PRC AND WAITING IN HONG KONG FOR ADMITTANCE TO TAIWAN" (COVERED IN ENGLISH PRESS ONLY), PRESIDENT YEN SAID ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING THE SHACKLES OF COMMUNISM AND WISH TO JOIN THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES WILL BE WELCOMED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. BUT HE QUALIFIED THIS STATEMENT WHEN HE ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF SECURITY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GIVE ENTRY PERMITS TO SECRET AGENTS. IF THESE PEOPLE WISH TO JOIN THE PEOPLE IN TAIWAN, THEY WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS.

10. NATIONAL DEFENSE AND US ROC RELATIONS: VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER CAME TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT FORD AT THE FUNERAL. HIS RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT CHIANG AND THE FRIENDSHIP HE EXPRESSED LEFT A VERY DEEP IMPRESSION.

11. WITH REGARD TO NATIONAL DEFENSE WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WE ASSUME THE MAIN DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TAIPEI 2090

THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IN VARIOUS ASPECTS. THAT IS WHY AN

IMPORTANT PORTION OF THE BUDGET RECENTLY SENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN IS FOR STRENGTHENING OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE. AS TO THE US COMMITMENTS, THE US HAS REPEATEDLY REITERATED ITS COMMITMENT TO THIS NATION. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT WHATSOEVER.

12. INDOCHINA: COMMENTING ON THE WORSENING SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THE PRESIDENT SAID: WHEREVER THERE IS COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, THE NEIGHBORING REGIONS AND THE WHOLE AREA WILL BE THREATENED. WHEN A PART OF ASIA SUFFERS FROM COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, THE IMPACT WILL REACH NOT ONLY THE WHOLE ASIAN CONTINENT, BUT ALSO COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION. THE STABILITY AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ASIA DURING THE LAST FEW DECADES HAVE BEEN MAINLY DUE TO THE AMERICAN PRESENCE. THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES TO THE ASIAN COUNTRIES IN THE PAST, AND THIS HAS WON THE
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APPRECIATION OF THE ASIAN PEOPLES.

13. DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: WITH NATIONS WHICH MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE ROC, THE FRIENDSHIP WILL BE FURTHER IMPROVED BY STRENGTHENING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND TRADE RELATIONS. WITH NATIONS WHICH DO NOT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE ROC, SUBSTANTIAL RELATIONS WITH THEM WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND PEOPLEK-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY.

14. JAPAN: THE STATUS OF ROC/JAPANESE RELATIONS DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS IS OBVIOUS. THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG'S POLICY TOWARD JAPAN HAD BEEN ALWAYS CONSISTDNT, ALTHOUGH JAPAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS HAS BEEN RATHER INDIFFERENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG'S POLICY OF BENEVOLENCE TOWARD JAPAN. BUT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS, IT NEEDS EFFORTS FROM BOTH SIDES.

15. REPUBLIC OF KOREA: OUR LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG HAD TOLD US THAT TWO COUNTRIES, IF THEY COOPERATE FULLY, WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO EACH OTHER, BUT IF SPLIT, WILL HURT BOTH. BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION.

16. SWEDEN AND WEST GERMANY: THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE TWO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM IN THE TRADE AND CULTURAL ASPECTS HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE. WE WILL TRY TO STRENGTHEN THESE RELATIONS.

17 ECONOMIC POLICY: ON THE ONE HAND, THE ROC WILL EMPHASIZE DEVELOPMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, MAINTAIN ECONOMIC STABILITY; BUT STABILITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DEVELOPMENT. PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MONEY MARKET IN ORDER TO STIMULATE THE NATION'S ECONOMY.

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18. COMMENT:
IN THIS FIFTY-MINUTE CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT YEN APPEARED TO BE RELAXED AND FULLY IN COMMAND, SUGGESTING THAT HE MAY WISH TO BREAK WITH TRADITION AND MEET WITH THE PRESS FROM TIME TO TIME. AT ONE POINT IN THE SESSION, HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD MEET THEM AGAIN WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

19. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AUTHORITATIVE TEXT, BUT, BASED ON THE ABOVE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINTS APPEAR TO BE THOSE SUGGESTING THAT A) WHILE THE ROC WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALREADY ESTABLISHED POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES, NEW APPROACHES SERVING THE NATIONAL INTEREST MAY BE ADOPTED; B) THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROC NATIONAL DEFENSE LIES WITH THE ROC ITSELF; AND C) THE US HAS REPEATEDLY REITERATED ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO THE ROC AND THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT WHATSOEVER. UNGER

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